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16 December 1992

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92-266

Complaints and Investigations Division
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Sir or Madam:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
FCC - MAIL ROOM OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am writing this letter to complain of a practice I consider to be "price gouging" by the MultiVision Cable TV Corporation. In view of their announcement of a \$2.00 increase in the monthly fee for "Standard Cable service" effective 1 January 1993, I called to request my service be downgraded to the "Basic" service. Their "fee" to downgrade my service is \$49.95. This is over three times the cost of my original cable hookup, which required actual digging and running cable, even though all that is required is to exchange the two channel (A&B) converter for a one channel box and make changes in their computer control programming.

I strongly feel this practice is an attempt to build Multivision's profits before the recently enacted cable re-regulation becomes effective. I spoke with a Mr. Dunlop in your Cable Office, who stated this practice is not covered by the new legislation and as such is not regulated by the FCC. If this is correct, I urge the FCC to request that Congress amend the Cable regulation bill to allow some oversight of this type of unfair practice by a monopolistic industry.

Sincerely,


Ricky L. Carper
6107 Gothic Lane
Bowie, Md. 20720
Ph: 301-464-3543

cc:
Ms. Tanya Rich
General Manager, MultiVision Cable TV
9609 Annapolis Road
Lanham, Md. 20706

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City of
Santa Clarita

23920 Valencia Blvd.
Suite 300
City of Santa Clarita
California 91355

Phone
(805) 259-2489
Fax
(805) 259-8125

December 14, 1992

Federal Communications Commission
Washington D. C. 20554

Subject: Cable Act of 1992

The City of Santa Clarita is the franchising authority for two cable companies that provide service for our citizens. The cable companies service specific areas of our city; no service areas overlap.

We are asking your assistance in giving local governments rate regulation control. We have many citizens on fixed incomes who cannot afford to keep up with the rate increases and in our area are unable to receive basic network channels without cable.

We would like to represent our citizens' concerns over rate increases for basic and tier cable service. Attached is a recent survey regarding rate increases for the years 1987 to January 1993. The basic rate increase from May 30, 1992, to January 1, 1993 is 10%. The tier pricing increase for the same period is nearly a 19% increase!

Support the cable customers by setting "reasonable" rates. When setting these rates, please consider our survey and let us know if we will be able to request the existing rates to be lowered.

We would like to thank the FCC for MM Docket 92-258, giving cable operators authority to prohibit certain programming on cable access channels.

Please contact the City Cable Liaisons Robyn Dowd or Kevin Tonoian at (805) 294-2500, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jan Heidt
Jan Heidt
Mayor

cc: Councilmembers
George Carvalho, City Manager

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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CABLE RATES AND CHARGES 1987-1993

Year	Month	Company Name	Limited Basic (Number of Channels)	Add'l Cable Channels	1st Premium Channel	2nd Premium Channel	Add'l Premium Channel	Add'l Outlet	Add'l Premium Outlet	Premium Stereo	Install (Basic)
1987	Jun	King Cablevision	N/A ₁ N/A ₁	15.75 (23) 12.95 (28)	10.00 10.95	7.00 9.55	8.00 9.50	2.50 ₂ 2.50	8.00 2.50	3.95 2.50	45.00 N/A
1988	Jul	King Cablevision	N/A ₁ N/A ₁	16.95 (25) 14.24 (33)	11.00 10.75	7.00 6.00	8.00 6.00	2.50 2.50	8.00 2.50	3.95 2.50	45.00
1989	Jul	King Cablevision	N/A ₁ No change	17.95 (25)	11.00	7.00	8.00	2.50	8.00	3.95	50.00
1990	Jun Jul	King Cablevision	17.10 (15) 12.95 (12)	18.95 (28) 17.50 (34)	11.00 10.75	7.00 6.75	8.00 6.00	2.50 2.50	8.00 2.50	3.95 2.50	60.00 45.00 ₃
1991	Sep Mar	King Cablevision	18.00 (15) 13.60 (12)	19.95 (28) 19.95 (37)	11.00 10.95	7.00 8.00	8.00 8.00	2.50 2.50	8.00 2.50	3.95 2.50	60.00 (100) 45.00 ₃
1992	Jun ₄ Apr ₄	King Cablevision	18.90 (15) 15.12 (12)	22.00 (32) 24.25 (41)	11.55 10.95	7.35	8.40 ₅	2.89 4.00	8.40 4.00	3.95 4.00	63.00 (105) 45.00 ₃
1993	Jan	King Cablevision	19.85 (15) Unknown	23.68 (32) ₆	11.55	7.35	8.40	2.89	8.40	3.95	63.00 (105)

- 1 Basic cable was not an option at this time.
- 2 King Video has always given customers three outlets; a fourth outlet and each there after is \$2.89.
- 3 Install fee the same for basic or special packages; no charge for existing customer who chooses to downgrade from preferred service to basic.
- 4 Franchise fee now itemized on billing statement.
- 5 Total cost for 3 pay channels is \$18.95 above the \$24.25.
Total cost for 4 pay channels is \$27.95 above the \$24.25.
- 6 King offers a Senior Lifeline Service for \$16.80.

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King has approximately 40 customers with basic service; Cablevision, 800 customers.

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EDWARD A. SEEBOL
1100 Angela St
Key West, FL 33040
Dec. 16, 1992

Re: Cable Rate Regulation - mm

Docket 92-266

Cable Customer Service - mm

Docket 92-263

F.C.C.

Gentlemen -

Instead of raising cable rates, the F.C.C. should legislate significant rate reduction. The cable firms generate revenue from advertising of their sponsors. Their profits are outrageous. They don't need to charge the public high rates. It is just greed. Cable rates should be cut... paying \$20 per month for basic cable is a disgrace. Please stop rate increases... cut cable rates.

Sincerely

EASBP

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dec. 14, 1992

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Cable Rate Regulation
MM-Docket 92-266

Cable Customer Service
MM Docket 92-263

I am a retired teacher on a very limited budget. Increasingly the only people who have access to Cable are the more affluent and I feel disenfranchised by the high cable rates and the feeble reception I get on the regular channels. The airwaves are public property and everyone in the U.S. should be able to receive programs.

Please keep us - with the antennas - in mind when regulating on our behalf.

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Sincerely

\$25 a month !! Too much !!

Norma J. J.